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May. 13 2004 05:24PM PB

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appl. No. 10/080,528

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9-12 and 14 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 4, 5, 8 and 13 are canceled. Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging patentable subject matter in the application. Specifically, claims 5-7, 9, 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-3, 10, 11 and 14 remain rejected. In particular, claims 1, 3, 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wild et al. (USP 5,167,094) in view of Pennells (USP 3,999,429) and claims 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wild et al. in view of Shibayama et al. (USP 5,483,823). For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests favorable disposition of the application.

Formalities

The Examiner has not yet indicated approval of the drawings filed on February 22, 2002. Approval of the drawings is kindly requested.

Argument

In order to advance prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended the claims to include the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner, thus, placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Specifically, Applicant has amended claim 1 to add the allowable subject matter of claim 5 and amended claims 10 and 14 to add the allowable subject matter of claim 13.

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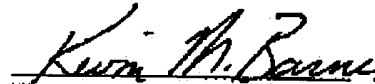
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the application is believed to be in form for immediate allowance with claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9-12 and 14, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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